

CONCERNING PLANTS OF THE CAUCASUS

Otto & Isa Degener

After attending mostly fascinating lectures at the XII International Botanical Congress in Leningrad, we joined Field Trip Number 1 to the Caucasus July 11-18, 1975. It was conducted by Dr. Anatol I. Galushko, long Professor of Checheno-Ingushetia University, ably assisted as botanists and translators by his wife, his daughter and his Graduate Assistant Nemirova Lyssi (Ludmila).

One of us, a native New Yorker, knows the flora of that general region; the other, a native Berliner, knows that of Germany; and both of us, having toured Japan, have an inkling of what the flora of that now isolated archipelago is like. When we botanized during this Russian tour, we recognized many genera that we had seen in Eastern North America, Germany and Japan. These are of course the offspring of the ancient circumpolar flora, offspring forced south by an increasingly frigid climate. We collected representative specimens during the trip for the New York Botanical Garden and for the University of Massachusetts.

Many of our questions regarding our collection were recently answered on receiving from Dr. Galushko his newly published book printed in the Cyrillian alphabet. The text is illegible to us except for 530 plant binomials given in the Latin. Moreover as 130 species are illustrated by the author, we were intrigued to recognize strange species in such familiar genera as Acer, Aconitum, Ajuga, Allium, Ambrosia, Asarum, Asperula, Betula, Campanula, Carpinus, Centaurea, Centaurium, Clematis, Convolvulus, Datura, Delphinium, Dentaria, Dryas, Empetrum, Euonymus, Euphorbia s. s., Fagus, Festuca, Gentiana, Helleborus, Inula, Medicago, Moneses, Monotropa, Ostrya, Oxalis, Pedicularis, Plantago, Pyrus, Quercus, Rhamnus, Rhododendron, Rosa, Salsola, Saxifraga, Scrophularia, Secale, Silene, Solanum, Spiraea, Stigma, Teucrium, Thymus, Tilia, Ulmus, Vaccinium, Valeriana, Veronica and Viola.

Now that the reader is attracted to this book, we need no longer hesitate to give its somewhat awesome title. Translated into English, it is "The Vegetation and Flora of Checheno-Ingushetia." The area covers the little-known eastern part of the Terek River basin, East Caucasus. As neighboring, better known regions harbor many endemic angiosperms, Dr. Galushko expressed his conviction to us that "without doubt there are more than 100" still to be discov-

ered in this relatively unknown area. In his 120 page book are numerous chapters, such as concerning the Character of the Vegetation, illustrated with an original map on page 16; Botanical-Geographical Regions, with special emphasis on arid regions united by the author under a "Paleidagestani-an District," on p. 67; Useful Plants, p. 71; Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms, illustrated in color, p. 94; and Plants Requiring Protection, p. 113.

We prefer a few orthographic changes, such as using Spiraea for p. 50; Linnaea, p. 57; artemisiifolia, as the combination is derived from "artemisias" rather than from "artemisa," p. 93; halepense, p. 93. We regret this volume lacks an index, an oversight beyond the author's control; this can be supplied in a second edition. Regarding copies and cost, write Dept. of Botany, University, Pushkin St., Stavropol, U.S.S. Russia.

NOTES ON NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PLANTS. LXXXVI

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CITHAREXYLUM ULEI var. *OBOVATUM* Moldenke, var. nov.

Haec varietas a forma typica speciei recedit laminis foliorum obovatis vel obovalibus.

This variety differs from the typical form of the species in its leaf-blades being oboval or obovate in shape.

The type of the variety was collected by Richard Evans Schultes (no. 3388) at Puerto Asís and its vicinity, on the Río Putumayo, Colombia, at about 285 m. altitude, on March 9 or 10, 1942, and is deposited in the Britten Herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden. The collector describes the plant as a small tree and reports the vernacular name "cauchilla".

CLERODENDRUM TERNIFOLIUM var. *VELUTINOSUM* Moldenke, var. nov.

Haec varietas a forma typica speciei laminis foliorum subtus dense velutinosus differt.

This variety differs from the typical form of the species in having the lower leaf-surfaces densely velutinosus-tomentose.

The type of the variety was collected by Santiago López-Palacios (no. 3905) at Ibagué, Tolima, Colombia, on October 8, 1975, and is deposited in my personal herbarium at Plainfield, New Jersey. The collector describes the plant as "Arbusto de unos 3 m. Envés ligeramente indumentado y velutinoso, Flores blancas" and reports the common name "jarfín".